

App. S/N 10/717,700

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 and 2 are hereby amended editorially. Claim 3 was previously canceled. New claims 4 and 5 are supported at pages 7 and 9 of the specification respectively.

Claims 1 and 2 were considered objectionable. The editorial revisions to claims 1 and 2 overcome the noted objections.

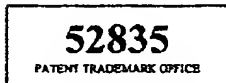
Claim 1 has been rejected as obvious over Fujiwara in view of Sano. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The rejection relies on Sano to provide the teaching of manganese nitrate solution with 0.5 to 2% graphite powder. However, the rejection seems to overlook the fact that Sano discusses the presence of different graphite powders in the electrode material. Graphite powder of 2-3 μm diameter may be present in relatively small amounts, but larger diameter graphite material also is present. Note that Table 1 on page 3 of the reference shows that Graphite A (larger diameter powder of 5-30 μm diameter) is present in about 7.5%, while the smaller diameter Graphite B is present in amounts varying from 1.5 to 7.1%. As a result, the amount of graphite disclosed by Sano does not meet the requirements of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is not suggested by the combined disclosures of the references.

Claim 2 has been rejected as obvious over Fujiwara in view of Hanawa. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The rejection relies on Hanawa to provide the teaching of manganese dioxide powder a graphite solution as required by claim 1. However, Hanawa teaches a mixture of graphite particles with manganese dioxide particles, with the amount of the graphite particles being 1-15% relative to the amount of manganese dioxide particles. The reference fails to suggest the use of a graphite solution that contains 5-10 wt% manganese dioxide powder relative to the solution as required by claim 2. Therefore claim 2 is not suggested by the combined disclosures of the references.

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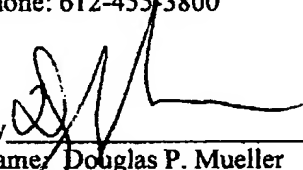
In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)455-3804.



Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 28, 2006

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